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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 19 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, between 8 and 15 December 1999, United States and British aircraft, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, continued to violate Iraqi airspace, carrying out acts of aggression, observation and provocation, as specified in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would intervene with the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the States which are providing them with facilities in order to commit these acts of aggression, namely, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to halting such acts, which infringe the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq and constitute blatant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law.

These acts continue to cause hundreds of deaths and injuries among the civilian population and material damage to private and public property. The logistical support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes those countries essential accomplices in the aggression against Iraq, and they therefore bear international responsibility for these acts. The Republic of Iraq reaffirms its right to demand reparation for the harm inflicted on the Iraqi people through the aforementioned acts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Details of violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 8-15 December 1999

1. In the northern region 46 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres. Details are given below:

(a) At 1305 hours on 10 December 1999 United States and British F-15 aircraft coming from Turkish territory violated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace. The aircraft carried out six sorties and overflew the Amadiyah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1312 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1047 hours on 12 December 1999 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory violated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace. The aircraft carried out 14 sorties and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Aqrah, Irbil and Rawanduz south areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1050 hours on 13 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory violated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace. The aircraft carried out 10 sorties and overflew the Amadiyah, Dohuk, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1100 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1115 hours on 14 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory violated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace. The aircraft carried out 16 sorties and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1410 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 253 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres. Details are given below:

(a) At 1230 hours on 8 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 62 sorties, 26 from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control

aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 36 from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Basra, Najaf, Amarah, Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Artawi, Busayyah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1505 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1143 hours on 9 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 48 sorties, 14 from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 34 from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Basra, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Artawi, Busayyah, Rifa'i and Rumaythah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1035 hours on 12 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 22 sorties, 14 from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 8 from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Lasaf, Jalibah, Busayyah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1135 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1010 hours on 13 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 34 sorties, 6 from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 28 from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Busayyah, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Jalibah, Rifa'i, Basra, Rumaythah, Qal'at Sukkar, Salman, Qurnah, Amarah, Qal'at Salih, Shinafiyah and Samawah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1145 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1310 hours on 14 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 59 sorties, 37 from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 22 from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Basra, Najaf, Jalibah, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Diwaniyah south, Shinafiyah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and at 2015 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1305 hours on 15 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 28 sorties, 12 from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 16 from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basra, Qurnah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Samawah, Afak, Amarah, Ushbayjah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1500 hours, drove them off.